

COAL MINING

Post-Visit Activity



Activity	Coal Towns In New River Gorge
Setting	Classroom
Duration	To be determined by individual teacher
Subject Areas	Language, Reading, Math Skills
Skills	Mapping, Research, Writing, Communication
Grade Level	4-5

Objective:

Students will be able to:

1. use a park map to locate early coal towns in the New River Gorge
2. research a town and present a report to the class
3. complete a coal town puzzle

WV-IGOs:

Language Arts - 4.7, 4.13, 4.14, 4.16, 4.31, 4.49, 4.54, 4.85, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.8, 5.16, 5.56, 5.6

Social Studies - 4.13, 4.25, 4.26, 4.46, 5.12, 5.32

WV Studies - WV16, WV17

VOCABULARY

See glossary

MATERIALS

1. Resource Page — River Towns Map
2. Resource Pages — River Towns
3. River Towns Worksheet
4. West Virginia history books
5. River Towns Word Search

BACKGROUND

New River Gorge was the site of more than 50 towns and communities that centered around the mining of coal or the railroad. Many of these towns were named for the coal company that set up a camp for its employees or for the people who founded them. Most of these towns that once thrived in the hey day of coal mining are completely gone. Much can be learned from a study of these communities, their development, and the people who lived there.

PROCEDURES

1. Give each student a copy of the River Towns Worksheet. Have them find and circle the name of each town in the River Town Word Search.
2. Divide students into smaller groups and give each group a copy of the Resource Page — River Towns Map.
3. Discuss the map with the students and locate as many of the towns from the River Towns Worksheet as possible. (All of the towns will not be on the map.)
4. Pin a copy of the map on a bulletin board and call out a name of a town from the Resource Pages — River Towns. The group that finds the town first must say “located;” then they will come forward and place a push pin in the map on the bulletin board.





PROCEDURES *Continued*

5. Have the students or groups choose a town they want to learn more about.
6. Give the students a list of the things you want them to include in their report such as outlines, number of pages, videos, speakers, photos, etc. The individual teacher should decide how in-depth the research project is to be and how long you will allow for completion of the project. Make suggestions as to how they might complete the project.
7. Allow class time and give students homework assignments to gather information for their projects.
8. Students should present their research project to the class.

EVALUATION

Did students complete the activity?

EXTENSION

Plan a visit to one of the towns in New River Gorge that still exists.



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Resource Page — River Towns



Fayette Station

Below the New River Gorge Bridge is the site of two former towns, Fayette and South Fayette. The Fayette Station Bridge connected these dual communities. South Fayette was mainly a railroad town, while the community of Fayette was a coal camp founded by Fayette Coal and Coke Company. A train depot, hotel, company store, and three saloons were located on the north side of the river at Fayette.

Kaymoor

Kaymoor was started by the Low Moor Coal Company in the late 1890s. Kaymoor was originally opened to supply coal to the iron furnaces in Low Moor, Virginia. The mining operation at Kaymoor grew into one of the largest in the gorge. In 1910, 1,500 people lived and worked at Kaymoor; the mine closed in 1963.

Nuttallburg

The Nutall Mine was opened by John Nuttall about 1880. Nuttall was the second coal operator in the New River coal fields. Nuttallburg consisted of an independent settlement at the top where miners owned their own homes, and the company town at the river level where Nuttall built company houses for employees. In later years, Henry Ford owned and operated the mine.

Elverton

This town was established when Branch Coal & Coke Company began operations in 1898. It closed in 1951. A population of 322 lived there in 1940. Today, only scattered structural foundations remain.

Caperton/ South Caperton

The Elen Mine was opened at Caperton by Col. J.L. Beury and John Cooper in 1880. Later, the New River Coal Company and Caperton Coal & Coke Company operated here. A population of 250 lived in the area in 1910. Living conditions in Caperton were rated as some of the worst in the state, according to the 1923 Coal Commission report.

Thayer (Slater Station)

Thayer, once called Slater Station, was founded by Ephraim Creek Coal & Coke Company. New River Coal Company bought the mine in 1926.



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Sewell

The history of the Sewell area is a long one. It begins in the latter part of the 18th century (1798) when Peter Bowyer operated a ferry across the river at Mann's Creek. It connected an Indian trail that led from Fayetteville to the Midland Trail. This was the first established settlement in the New River Gorge. When the railroad came through the gorge in 1873, Bowyer's Ferry was renamed Sewell after frontiersman Stephen Sewell. In 1873, The Longdale Iron Company of Pennsylvania purchased land here and opened coal mines at the top of the mountain and coke ovens at the river level. Coke making continued until 1956.

Brooklyn

The Scotia Coal & Coke Company opened Brooklyn or Finlow with a drift mine. A small town formed near the railroad tracks with about 65-70 coke ovens in operation.

Fire Creek

J.L. Beury founded Fire Creek mine in 1876. It was the third oldest mining enterprise on the New River. Fire Creek Coal & Coke Company had a drift opening in the Fire Creek coal seam. The town built around Fire Creek with 70 coke ovens and early buildings along both sides of the creek. Today, some of these foundations still remain.

Red Ash

New River Colliery Company opened the Red Ash Mine in 1891. In 1900 an explosion at the mine killed 46 men. In 1902 National Guard troops were sent in to keep peace during a violent strike. The guards slept in unused coke ovens during their stay.

Beury

This town was named for Col. Joseph L. Beury, a famous coal operator in the New River coalfields. Beury opened the Echo Mine on this site in 1881. He also built a 23-room mansion, beer bottling factory, lumber mill, and a church. The mine at Beury became known as the Beury Brothers Coal & Coke Company by 1910. During this time about 500 people lived in Beury.

Rush Run

Rush Run Mine was operated by the Scotia Coal & Coke Company. Buildings were arranged in a linear/block pattern along the river with scattered buildings on the hillside.

Concho

Concho Mine is noted for instituting the first electrification of a coal mine in the New River Gorge.



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Thurmond

Thurmond was named after Captain W.D. Thurmond, a very prominent Fayette County resident who served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. In 1873, the C&O built an assembly yard, freight station, and depot in Thurmond. The town of Thurmond sprang around the railroad loading station. The town began to decline in the 1930s.

Stone Cliff

The Stone Cliff Mine was opened by Noah Jenkins and J.H. Bramwell in 1881. Stone Cliff Collieries Company operated in the Fire Creek coal seam.

McKendree

In 1899 the state of West Virginia saw a need to establish miner's hospitals in the coal fields. Miner's Hospital No. 2 was established in the community of McKendree. Col. Joseph Beury donated the land for the hospital. Mining accidents brought many patients to McKendree, but the hospital also received train wreck victims and private citizens. In the early 1940s, the hospital was converted to a "State Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Persons." The structure was later closed and demolished.

Terry

Two mines, Terry No.1 and Terry No. 2, operated in this town located on the Raleigh County side of Stretcher's Neck bend. A road leads to Terry from the settlement of McCreery. The mines became inactive in 1967, but Terry exists today as a riverside town with a small percentage of its original population.

Quinnimont

Col. Joseph L. Beury established this town in 1873. He was the first operator to send New River coal across the newly completed C&O mainline. This mine played out in the 1920s. Quinnimont has a stone monument, erected in 1930, to commemorate Col. Beury. Beury named Quinnimont for the five mountains surrounding the area.

Prince

This town was named for the Prince brothers, who purchased 300 acres here in 1870. They built a home and mercantile business before the advent of the railroad. After the railroad and Stretcher's Neck Tunnel were constructed, their fortunes grew. Royal Coal & Coke Company opened a mine here in 1891. Today, Prince remains as an important commercial center for the railroad in the New River Gorge.



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Glade and Hamlet

These New River Gorge towns were located on opposite sides of the river but operated as a single town. They once were very active lumber towns connected by a railroad bridge. Bridge pillars still stand in the New River today.

Meadow Creek

William Gwinn, under an agreement with the railroad, built Meadow Creek station to accommodate the timber industry in the gorge. The firm of Barse and Hall operated an extensive lumber and mercantile business in Meadow Creek. An inactive coal processing plant is located in Meadow Creek.

Sandstone (New Richmond)

The settlement of New Richmond was named after William Richmond, who migrated to the area after the War in 1812. A depot was built and called New Richmond Station. Later the name was changed to Sandstone to avoid confusion with a station in Ohio. The name Sandstone was derived from a nearby sandstone quarry. Quarried sandstone was used to represent West Virginia in the Washington Monument. The bottomland area near Sandstone also has yielded the oldest prehistoric Indian artifacts found in the New River Gorge.

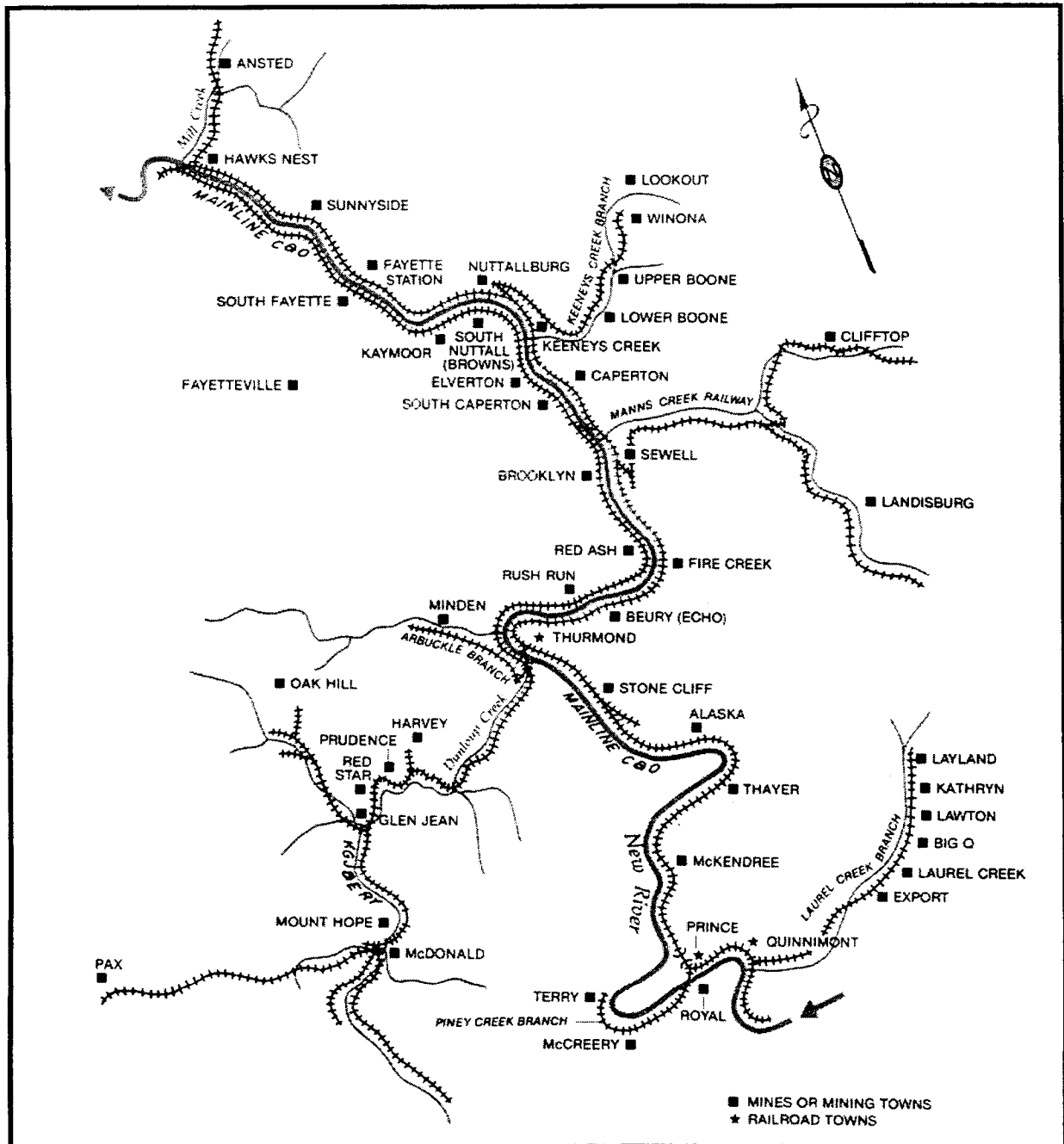
Hinton

The last town in the southern end of the New River Gorge National River boundary is Hinton. Issac Ballengee and John "Jack" Hinton first settled this town. Six families lived here when Hinton was established as a post office in 1873. After it was established in the gorge, the C&O Railway brought rapid growth to Hinton. The Central Land Company acquired land here in 1875 and sold town lots to settlers. The first privately owned hospital in West Virginia and the first YMCA on the C&O line were located at Hinton. Hinton is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places with its interesting downtown district.



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Resource Page - River Towns Map



Adapted from a map by Wallace Bennet



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River Towns Worksheet



Directions

Find these river towns in the River Towns Word Search and circle them. The towns may be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or in reverse.

Hinton

Longbottom

Sandstone

Hamlet

Quinnimont

Kaymoor

Glade

Meadow Creek

Last Hope

Prince

McKendree

Elverton

Royal

Beechwood

Stonecliff

Sewell

Nuttallburg

Thurmond

Beury

Pennbrook

Coal Run

Alaska

Dun Glen

Rush Run

Echo

Caperton

Fire Creek

Thayer

Fayette Station

Brooklyn

Red Ash

Birdseye



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River Towns Word Search



M	C	K	E	N	D	R	E	E	A	T	U	H	N	E	T	M	U
E	S	A	D	W	Q	E	T	B	N	O	T	R	E	P	A	C	Y
A	D	Y	D	F	G	D	A	A	B	F	K	L	L	E	O	P	M
D	R	M	T	E	W	A	K	R	T	Y	G	N	B	N	X	Z	B
O	Y	O	J	D	U	S	M	T	N	O	M	I	N	N	I	U	Q
W	R	O	M	A	A	H	G	H	J	P	L	O	P	B	N	H	A
C	A	R	X	L	V	B	N	M	T	H	A	Y	E	R	K	I	O
R	P	O	A	G	F	R	E	T	Y	G	V	B	F	O	S	Q	W
E	C	D	E	S	T	E	L	M	A	H	E	R	R	O	Y	A	L
E	B	N	H	F	T	R	D	V	D	I	A	H	T	K	D	P	A
K	V	G	H	N	F	F	D	B	B	N	R	E	I	U	Y	P	S
W	Q	G	R	U	B	L	L	A	T	T	U	N	Q	U	Y	A	T
T	G	B	F	R	I	B	J	K	M	O	L	L	P	Z	D	S	H
C	V	S	M	H	N	H	R	E	E	N	I	H	R	Y	T	M	O
Q	W	S	E	S	S	S	T	O	N	E	C	L	I	F	F	R	P
K	L	O	J	U	M	H	G	N	O	D	F	D	N	V	S	E	E
N	H	F	I	R	E	C	R	E	E	K	C	X	C	T	H	T	P
M	G	F	W	E	K	L	L	Y	N	H	L	V	E	S	E	H	X
E	P	K	T	O	S	E	W	E	L	L	L	Y	G	T	R	U	E
N	N	B	B	G	T	R	C	S	D	W	I	J	N	M	Y	R	B
O	D	N	E	L	G	N	U	D	I	U	H	Y	R	F	V	M	C
T	E	W	Q	U	V	F	F	R	R	E	N	U	R	L	A	O	C
S	M	J	U	Y	R	T	G	I	D	F	V	F	H	J	K	N	L
D	C	E	D	T	B	Y	G	B	E	E	C	H	W	O	O	D	K
N	O	T	R	E	V	L	E	J	U	I	K	I	O	P	P	O	M
A	B	V	F	C	D	W	A	L	O	N	G	B	O	T	T	O	M
S	B	T	Y	H	U	J	N	G	T	E	D	S	C	T	U	I	M
S	A	Q	N	O	I	T	A	T	S	E	T	T	E	Y	A	F	Z



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Word Search Answer Key

